

VZCZCXRO4716  
PP RUEHHM RUEHLN RUEHMA RUEHPB RUEHPOD  
DE RUEHKO #0246 0300916  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 300916Z JAN 08  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1367  
INFO RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE  
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 4330  
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 1060  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1400  
RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 5802  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 4436  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 8198  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 9469  
RUEHKS/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 6410  
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 8570  
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000246

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AIAG AMBASSADOR LANGE  
DEPT FOR OES/IHA COMELLA  
DEPT FOR EAP/J  
USDA PASS TO APHIS  
HHS PASS TO CDC  
HHS FOR OGHA STEIGER AND HICKEY  
DEPT PASS TO AID/GH/HIDN DENNIS CARROLL

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [TBIO](#) [KFLU](#) [KSTH](#) [ECON](#) [PREL](#) [SOCI](#) [CASC](#) [JA](#)  
SUBJECT: JAPAN AVIAN INFLUENZA UPDATE

REF: A. 05 STATE 153802

[1](#)B. 07 TOKYO 4579 AND PREVIOUS  
[1](#)C. 06 TOKYO 2135

[1](#)1. No human or animal outbreaks of H5N1 Avian Influenza (AI) were reported in Japan during the period September 27, 2007 to January 30, 2008.

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MHLW: No action in response to 100th Indonesian AI death  
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[1](#)2. Responding to news reports of the 100th fatality from avian influenza in Indonesia, officials at the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) told emboffs January 30 that the GOJ has no plans to take specific action. The MHLW officials said the latest death is not due to a sudden outbreak and the number of fatalities has been increasing only gradually.

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GOJ creates team for handling potential pandemic influenza  
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[1](#)3. Japan's ruling parties have established a team to discuss countermeasures for pandemic influenza. The team met for the first time January 29 and is headed by Jiro Kawasaki of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) who served as Minister of MHLW under Prime Minister Koizumi. The team will review the status of vaccine production and virus containment systems, including the dispatch of the Japan Self Defense Force in the case of an outbreak. The team will incorporate AI countermeasures into the budget plan in June. The team also plans to visit Indonesia. According to MHLW, however, the visit is not related to the reports of Indonesia's 100th AI human fatality.

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MHLW to issue caution on the use of Relenza and Symmetrel  
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14. The MHLW announced January 29 it has instructed pharmaceutical companies to revise warning labels for anti-viral drugs Relenza and Symmetrel sold in Japan. The new labels warn that the use of the drugs may cause abnormal behavior in patients under 20 years old, although causal links between the drugs and abnormal behavior are not clear.

SCHIEFFER